RESEARCH ON A SUITABLE SUBSTITUTE OF PETROL

3265. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATARAMAN :

SHRI MISA R. GANESAN :

SHRI J. S. RAJU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that research is being conducted in the field of science and technology for a suitable substitute of Petrol; and

(b) if so, which Institute or Institutes has/have established an alternative of Petrol ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Research & Development works are being conducted at Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay and Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun on using Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) on petrol engines, results of which have been encouraging.

Besides, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, is working on gasification of biomass and injecting the same into pertol engines.

Research is being conducted in Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, using Hydrogen as an alternative source of fuel in Internal Combustion engines. A motorcycle fitted with Hydrogen cylinder is being tested.

Research work has also been carried out at the Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun on the use of both methanol and ethanol gasoline blends in cars, scooters, motorcycles and mopeds.

At this stage, the use of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) as a substitute for petrol appears to be most encouraging.

INDIAN COMPANIES SPONSORING R&D PROJECT AT CSIR LABORATORIES

3266. MISS SAROJ KHAPERDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that few Indian Companies were coming forward to sponsor Research and Development Project at the laboratories of the C.S.I.R. and other Government institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) to (c) A number of Indian companies have come forward to sponsor research and development projects at the laboratories of the CSIR and other Government institutions. For example, in the case of CSIR, 60 companies have sponsored 95 R&D projects at a value of Rs. 450 lakhs during 1991-92, and 70 companies have sponsored 100 R&D projects at a value of Rs. 820 lakhs during 1992-93.

To encourage industry to sponsor R&D projects in national laboratories, Government have evolved fiscal incentives, latests being o 125 per cent Weighted Income Tax Deduction for sponsored research programmes in approved National Laboratories.